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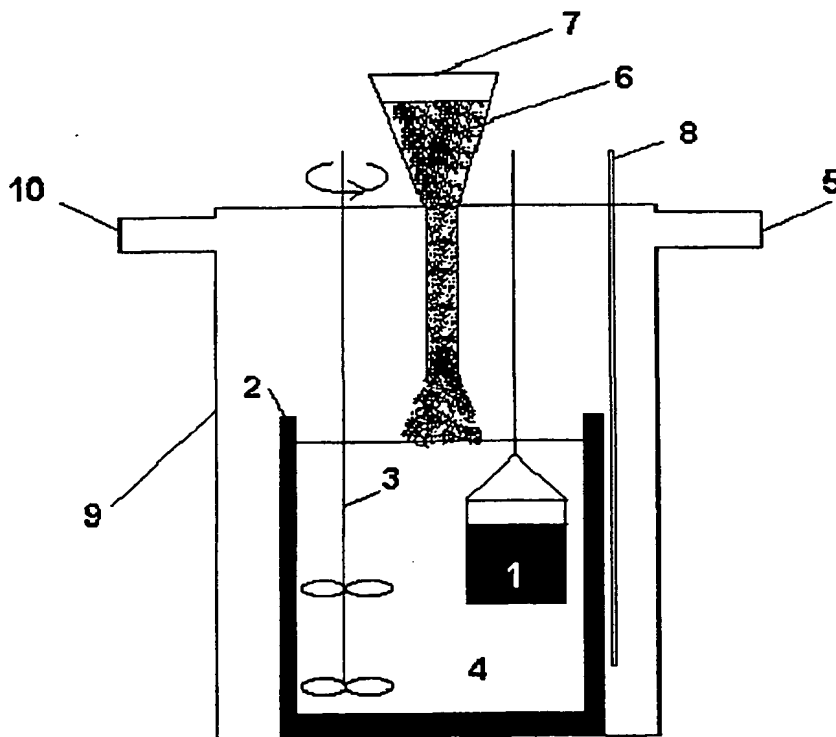
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(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NIOBIUM AND/OR TANTALUM POWDER WITH LARGE SURFACE AREA



(57) Abstract: The present invention refers to a process for production of a powder of niobium and/or tantalum having high purity, large specific surface area, controlled contents of oxygen and nitrogen, and a morphology that is adequate for use in the manufacture of capacitors, characterized by including one sole step of reduction of a controlled layer of niobium and/or tantalum oxide (Nb_xO_y , and/or Ta_xO_y , where $x = 1$ to 2 and $y = 1$ to 5) deliberately formed over particles of metallic niobium and/or tantalum and/or hydrides thereof of adequate purity, by alkali metals or earth alkali metals and/or hydrides thereof in a bath of molten salts followed by a step of dissolution of the salt in an aqueous solution for recovery of the niobium and/or tantalum powder. These particles produced using the said process have a small size, large surface area and a sponge-like morphology, being thereby adequate for the production of capacitors.

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